



SAINT ANNE PARISH

20 Boston Road Southborough, MA 01772

ST. ANNE PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

We, the people of St. Anne Parish, Southborough, in the Diocese of Worcester are called through Baptism to become one faith family. We commit ourselves to embody the presence of Christ in Word and Sacrament; by using our ministries to welcome all who are seeking Jesus and to share in the life and work of our Catholic faith. In the spirit and truth of the Holy Trinity, we will use our time, talents and treasure to answer God's command to love one another as He has loved us, in holy worship, prayer, Catechetical formation for all, evangelization and service to others.

**We welcome all visitors to St. Anne Parish. If you would like to join our faith community, please call the Parish Office to register:
508-485-0141**

Parish Contact Information
Office Hours, Monday ~ Thursday
 9:30 am to 3:30 pm
Friday ~ 9:30 am to noon
Telephone 508-485-0141
Fax 508-460-0181

E-mail:

stanne403@stannesouthborough.org
Web: www.stannesouthborough.org

Pastor

Fr. Albert Irudayasamy,
 fralbert@stannesouthborough.org

Parish Council

George Stagno ~ Chair

Finance Committee

Rich Flathers ~ Chair

Religious Education

Director of Religious Education:
 Monica Shay
 monica@stannesouthborough.org

Parish Office Manager

Melissa Shields
 stanne403@stannesouthborough.org
 Linda Bradstreet (on leave)

Bookkeeper

Bridgitte Morgan
 bridgitte@stannesouthborough.org

Music Ministry

Organist & Choir Director:
 Paul Crivello 508-366-0821
 pcrivello04@gmail.com

Maintenance

Matt Bernier
 mbern@stannesouthborough.org

Amy Buttiglieri ~ **Webmaster**
 webmaster@stannesouthborough.org

MARCH 22, 2020

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT



*For you were once
darkness,
but now you are light in the
Lord.*

*Live as children of light,
for light produces every
kind of goodness
and righteousness and
truth.*

*Try to learn what is
pleasing to the Lord.
Take no part in the fruitless
works of darkness;
rather expose them, for it is
shameful even to mention
the things done by them in
secret;*

*but everything exposed by
the light becomes visible,
for everything that becomes
visible is light.*

Therefore, it says:

*“Awake, O sleeper,
and arise from the dead,
and Christ will give you
light.”*

(Ephesians 5:8-14)

**Please note that due to
COVID-19 concerns all
Masses and church-
related gatherings
within the Diocese of
Worcester are
suspended until further
notice.**

**Please contact the
Parish Office for
questions about when
receiving or scheduling
of any of the
Sacraments will be
resumed.
Thank you.**

**Let us all keep each
other in our prayers.**

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A Letter from Father Albert

March 20, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

Greetings. None of us could have dreamed that we would one day be faced with the situation we are in today with no public celebrations of the Liturgy, including Sunday Mass, and all our other gatherings being cancelled. This is compounded with trying to figure out how to assist the sick and dying spiritually, how to help those who are hungry receive food or shelter, trying to continue to educate children who are home from school or unable to gather at religious education, and so many other issues that are real in all of our lives.

The simple fact of the matter is that the **parish is not closed or asleep** even when we have to operate with no public gatherings.

First of all, we want you to know that you are constantly in our thoughts and prayers. You are not alone even if you find yourself facing this virus in a self-quarantined environment at home. We are all praying for you because you are part of our parish family. Please find hope and encouragement in that reality.

As Catholic priests we are here to pray for everyone, to sacramentally offer anointing in times of illness, to celebrate with you at joyous occasions such as weddings and baptisms, and, sadly, to grieve with you at the loss of loved ones whom we commend to God with our prayers for eternal life.

As Bishop McManus emailed by Flocknote to everyone on Tuesday, we are people of hope, a hope which is grounded in faith and does not fail us. As stewards of the bodies with which we have been entrusted, we must heed the sound advice of healthcare professionals and government officials to protect ourselves, our loved ones and the entire community.

Assisting the community includes your parish family. If your household is still stable right now, please help this parish stay solvent during this crisis by continuing your support of the Parish Offertory. Whether you use online giving or can drop a check in the mail, your regular support will make a huge difference at being sure we will still be here when the crisis is over. The reality is that we have staff, insurances, minimal heat, and other expenses which are still real for the parish and must be addressed. And if you can do more, then do not forget Partners in Charity which is the lifeline for 25 agencies that assist tens of thousands of people every day.

Citing from the prayer our diocese has shared in this time of pandemic, we ask that you repeat these words in particular through the days ahead: "O God, . . . give us the wisdom to do what is right and the faith to endure this hour, that we might gather once again to praise your name in the heart of your Church, delivered from all distress and confident in your mercy." Amen.

As I join with my brother priests in sending this letter, we join in prayer for your safety. And trust in the Lord who is the source of true hope.

Sincerely,

Fr. Albert Irudayasamy
Pastor, St. Anne parish
Southborough.

PS. We want to stay in touch more regularly by Flocknote. PLEASE share your email address and cell phone with us – if you have already shared with us in the past it would still be good to confirm your information. Please contact the Parish Office by email, fax, or phone, to leave your name, email address, and cell phone number. Feel free to add more names in your household who would like to receive emails directly from the parish. Thank you.

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My dear friends in Christ,

As we confront almost hourly news reports about rising cases of Coronavirus, additional measures to restrict exposures to the threat of this insidious virus, and concerns about our own health and the wellbeing of our loved ones, we can become very anxious. Yet we are a people of hope, grounded in the faith that God is always with us. As your bishop, I write to you today in these troubling times to remind you of this unshakeable tenet of our Catholic faith.

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, in his encyclical *Spe Salvi* (Saved by Hope) stressed how the virtue of hope is critical for anyone who encounters suffering: “[T]he present, even if it is arduous, can be lived and accepted if it leads towards a goal, if we can be sure of this goal, and if this goal is great enough to justify the effort of the journey” (*Spe Salvi* 1). What is that goal for us today? I propose that our first goal is to maintain a courageous spirit of optimism and perseverance during this health crisis. We are responsible for being good stewards of our bodies and for following the advice of medical professionals to minimize risk. By virtue of our baptism we are also called as good citizens to care for others in need, in good times and in bad.

In *Spe Salvi*, Benedict XVI noted that “It is not science that redeems man: Man is redeemed by love. This applies even in terms of this present world. . . . The human being needs unconditional love. He needs the certainty which makes him say: “neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Rom. 8:38-39). (SS26)

As people of faith, let us not lose sight of the fact that our ultimate goal is life eternal, to one day enjoy God’s life and love eternally. That love is experienced even in this life when we are cared for in times of sickness with compassion, and we in turn become agents of God’s love when we help others in need.

So what can we do? I suggest we consider three things: Pray, Listen and Respond.

Pray the *Prayer In Time of Pandemic* which we are sharing through our parishes and institutions. Why? Prayer will ground us in the realization that, first of all, we are not alone. Even when seemingly no one else hears us in our pleas, God always hears us. It reminds us that the truly important things in life are bigger than us and we must set aside our pride to focus on what is truly important in life.

Listen and Respond. Our faith reminds us that grace builds on nature. If we are attentive to the instructions of those around us we will be given the grace to respond. Hence, we must be attentive to the advice of healthcare professionals to protect ourselves but we must also be attentive to the spiritual, emotional and physical needs of others. Pope Francis has observed that his greatest concern regarding how this crisis is unfolding in Italy is that of isolation. Feeling alone and feeling abandoned engender fear, not hope. Are young and elderly family members scared or at risk and need our assurances and help? Are neighbors alone and in need of wellness checks so as to not feel abandoned?

As baptized members of the Body of Christ, we also have a responsibility to the greater community of faith. In the weeks ahead, our faith life may be greatly challenged by not being able to attend Mass. We will have to fast from the very sustenance for which our souls yearn during this Lent, the Holy Eucharist. Again I stress - do not lose hope. As your parishes communicate with you, I hope they will remind you that you can at least pray together with the Catholic community in our diocese through our Sunday and Daily Masses on the internet and on Spectrum (Charter) Channel 193. You may also have access to the Mass on Catholic TV from Boston if you are on a different cable company or satellite TV. You can make a Spiritual Communion as you spiritually prepare for the day, God willing, when you can return to the Banquet of the Lord at Easter.

As members of the Diocese of Worcester, I also implore you not to lose sight of how we are serving so many people in need every day through our parish ministries and our diocesan agencies. Your call to be good stewards through the parish offertory is needed now as much as ever, as well as your continued support for the annual [Partners in Charity](#) Appeal which is a lifeline for diocesan-wide service to thousands of people who are physically and spiritually in need. However, in light of these difficult times, I have suspended the activities of our diocesan capital campaign, Legacy of Hope, until these difficult times are behind us, in order to stay focused on addressing present needs. I encourage you to take advantage of online giving portals for your parish and Partners in Charity or simply continue to support your offertory by mail.

In closing, I ask that you join me in the following *Prayer in Time of Pandemic* and that you do so every day until this health crisis has passed.

*O God, whose Only Begotten Son bore the weight of human suffering for our salvation,
hear the prayers of your Church for our sick brothers and sisters and deliver us from this time of trial. Open our ears and our hearts to the voice
of your Son: Be not afraid, for I am with you always.
Bless all doctors and nurses, researchers and public servants;
give us the wisdom to do what is right and the faith to endure this hour,
that we might gather once again to praise your name in the heart of your Church,
delivered from all distress and confident in your mercy. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

May God protect you and your loved ones through this time of trial.

With every prayerful best wish, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Robert J. McManus
Bishop of Worcester



Glancing Thoughts
Fourth Sunday of Lent
Year A
March 22, 2020
Eleonore Stump

Reading I: 1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a
Responsorial Psalm 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6
Reading II: Ephesians 5:8-14
Gospel: John 9:1-41

The Blind Man Who Wanted for Nothing

The Psalm says, “The Lord is my Shepherd. There is nothing I shall want.”

But the Gospel Reading tells the story of a man born blind. How is the Psalm supposed to be made consonant with the Gospel Reading? Doesn’t the man born blind have something that he lacks?

When the story ends, he has become an icon of faith and courage.

The disciples of Jesus are anxious about this blind man too, and they try to ally their anxiety by finding some explanation for his blindness. “Why was this man born blind?” they ask Jesus. “Did this man sin or was it his parents?” If it was *anybody’s* sin, then they can reasonably hope that such suffering won’t come to their families, at least it won’t come if they all try hard not to sin.

But this is an appalling way to think about suffering, isn’t it?

It is terrible to suppose that all suffering is punishment for sin. What kind of God inflicts blindness on a newborn as a punishment for sin?

Jesus dismisses their attitude entirely. This man’s blindness has nothing to do with the sins of anyone, Jesus says. It’s something about the future—not something about the past—that explains his blindness. God let this man be born blind that the works of God might be manifest through him.

So that is Jesus’ explanation for the man’s blindness, but it looks at least as bad as the thought of the disciples, doesn’t it? What kind of God inflicts blindness on a newborn so that the works of God can be manifest in him later?

But think about that blind man himself.

At the outset of the story, he is an impoverished outcast, a beggar, a nobody. Then the mighty works of God are manifest in him, and he takes the Lord as his Shepherd. The result is that he himself becomes glorious. When the story ends, he has become an icon of faith and courage. He has stood up to the worldly power of the leaders of his community and witnessed to the goodness of God in very challenging circumstances. He has become an example to us all.

Who would not want to be like him? And that is why it was true for him that the Lord was his shepherd, even though he was born blind. In the end, the Lord was his Shepherd, and there was nothing the blind man lacked, just as the Psalmist says.

Eleonore Stump



Parish Information & Announcements



The Sunday Mass will now be broadcast LIVE at 10 am, with Bishop McManus as the celebrant. This Mass will be repeated on Sunday evening at 6 pm.

The Daily Mass will be broadcast LIVE at 9 am on Spectrum/Charter Channel 193.

Additionally, all Masses are streamed at worcesterdiocese.org to make them accessible to areas served by other cable providers.

Viewers currently tune in from all around the world. The TV Ministry of the Diocese of Worcester has been broadcasting Daily & Sunday Masses for more than 3 decades.



2020 Confirmation Candidates

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION & REHEARSAL, CONFIRMATION MASS, AND SENDING FORTH MASS ALL ARE POSTPONED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

WE WILL PROVIDE UPDATED INFORMATION AS SOON AS IT IS AVAILABLE.

**LOOK
Here!**

- ◆ We need new Parish Council members. Please consider serving. If interested in serving or in nominating another parishioner, please contact the Parish Office.
- ◆ *This year's Appreciation Dinner is suspended until further notice.*

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

All Religious Education classes, meetings, and retreats are suspended until further notice.

The Confirmation Mass is cancelled for March 29th and will be rescheduled.

We will provide updated information as soon as it is available.

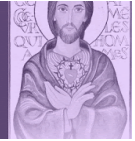


LENT ~ 2020

All Masses, Soup and Stations, Eucharist Adoration, and Confession hours are suspended until further notice. Please continue to observe the guidelines for fasting and abstinence during Lent.

"During this Lent,
let us all ask the Lord:
Make our hearts like yours."

-Pope Francis



GUIDELINES FOR FAST AND ABSTINENCE

Lenten fast and abstinence regulations for the Diocese of Worcester are as follows: Abstinence from meat is to be observed by all Catholics fourteen (14) years of age and older on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and all the Fridays of Lent. Fasting is to be observed by all Catholics who are eighteen (18) years of age but not yet fifty-nine (59) years of age on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Those who are bound to fast may take only one full meal. Two smaller meals are permitted if necessary to maintain strength according to one's needs, but eating solid foods between meals is not permitted. Catholics should not lightly excuse themselves from these prescribed Lenten penitential practices.

WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

with MASS INTENTIONS (Mar 21 – Mar 29)

SATURDAY 21	5:00 pm	For Saint Anne Parishioners
SUNDAY 22	8:30 am	For Mary E. White by Elaine Yetman
	10:30 am	For John Callinan by Annette & Charles Buhsmer
	5:30 pm	For the Students and Families of St. Anne Parish
MONDAY 23	9:00 am	For Theresa St. Maurice by Cecilia Lynch
TUESDAY 24	9:00 am	For Margaret Ann Hostage
WEDNESDAY 25	9:00 am	For Linda Bradstreet (Healing)
THURSDAY 26	9:00 am	For Saint Anne Parishioners
FRIDAY 27	9:00 am	For Elizabeth Connell by the Flathers Family
SATURDAY 28	5:00 pm	For Carlene Haughey by Jeanette Castelda
SUNDAY 29	8:30 am	For Greg Polanik by the Prayer Shawl Ministry
	10:30 am	For Phillip Wood (9 th Anniversary) by Jane Wood
	5:30 pm	For the Students and Families of St. Anne Parish

Ministries & Stewardship

PARISH STEWARDSHIP REPORTS FOR::

March 15, 2020

Weekly Offering	\$2,368.00
Capital Fund	\$60.00
Fuel	\$75.00
Easter Flowers	\$90.00

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ONGOING GENEROUS SUPPORT.

Online Giving: St. Anne Parish partners with **WeShare** for on-line giving. WeShare allows both onetime gifts, as well as regular, scheduled donations. Please visit our Parish website www.stannesouthborough.org for the link to WeShare.com or call 1-800-950-9952 and use option 1 to answer any questions.

St. Anne's Website: With our website we have an **additional resource for online giving and online CE registration.** St. Anne Parish partners with **eCatholic and BluePay** for easy on-line giving. Our one-step on-line form allows both one-time gifts, as well as regular, scheduled donations. Please visit our Parish website www.stannesouthborough.org and select the Quick Link to the BluePay On-Line Giving page.

Thank you to parishioners who are using Online Giving. Parishioners who use the service seem pleased with how easy it is to set up and manage. If you have not yet signed up for Online Giving, please consider this option. By using Online Giving you are helping our parish improve our operational efficiency.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Sr. Yvette, Faith Stephens, Jan & Charlie Mangana, Danielle Taylor, Jamie Farley, Stephanie McMahon, Rachel Knoll, Brad Arsenault, Paine Family, Lavalley Family, Marilou A. Custodio, Melinda O'Connor, Susan Davis, Scott Broussard, Paul Brodeur, Kenny Cassidy, Colleen Manning, Simone Almeida, Pat Austin, Phil Auzenne, Alexandra Barr, Carolyn Green, (Red) Weir, Zenta Franz, Denise Perrin, Katie Lutz, Judi Shea, Larochelle Family, Barbara Peterson, Gertrude Wallace, Judy Christian, Jeanne Walker, Dianne Higgins, Millie Garden, Dorothy Reid, Yvonne Allain, Dewey Morton, Michael Santella, Carol Dunn, Stephen Brown, Kristine Livingstone, Rita Babino, Carolyn Connors, Jan Peterson, Reno Morra, Trent Vaughn, Arron Anderson, Peter Pino, Amy Richardson, Kathy, Andrea Furtado, Rick Davis, Fran, Carol Cory, Cecile, Keith Whipple, Seminarian Alex Quach, Pat Moran, Sarah, Maryjane Carey, Fr. Leo, Patricia, Ryan, Shelia, Linda Bradstreet, Keith Whipple, Faith Stephen, Pat, Linda, Paul, Dan Nicole, James, Fr. Thirburs F. Millot, Bill Gittins, Claudia Webster, Katie Kulik, Jackie Di Buono, Elaine Arrison, Rachel Attaway, Matthew, Susan Cioppa, Anne Comcowich, Beth Stephens, Lillian Franco, Mary Hunt, Hans, Elisabeth Borreani, Peg Nicosia, and Michele Fuller.



Prayer Shawl Ministry: Anyone who is ill or suffering will welcome a blessed, warm, and comforting prayer shawl. Shawls are located at the parish office during business hours.

The ministry members meet every Monday at 10:00 a.m. to noon in the Conference Room in the Parish Hall.

New members are always welcomed.

Prayer Shawl will not be meeting until further notice.

Annette Buhsmer, Chair

United Parishes of Southborough Food Pantry

Thank you so very much for your continuous support of the Southborough Food Pantry. You make it possible for us to help our clients. **Currently we are in need of Chef Boy-ar-dee products, white cake mixes, facial tissues (e.g. Kleenex), white tuna and cleaning products...** As most food items are date sensitive, please be sure that your donation is not out of date. Donations may be left in the foyer of the parish hall. If you know of anyone who could benefit from the Food Pantry, especially during this time with the Coronavirus, please encourage them to come. The Food Pantry will remain open with special procedures to ensure the safety of our clients and volunteers. **Please see the precautions in place as outlined on the following page in a letter sent to the Pantry clients.**

Pantry hours (located at Pilgrim Church) are
Tuesdays from 7-8 p.m. and Fridays
from 10-11 a.m.

Again, thank you for your continued generosity to the Southborough Food Pantry.



Pat Draper, St. Anne Parish Coordinator



OUR FATHER'S TABLE

St. Anne Church will be providing a ready-to-go meal to OFT patrons this Thursday, March 26, at the OFT site at 4:30 p.m.

St. Anne parishioners may contribute items for the production of a meal of lasagna, meatballs, salad, bread, and cookies to OFT patrons, but will not be gathering to cook on Wednesday, March 25, or to serve on Thursday, March 26, as originally scheduled.

Parishioners are invited to contribute an ingredient or cookies by dropping off the items to the St. Anne Parish Hall Kitchen fridge by noon on Wednesday, March 25. (Surfaces and the fridge will be periodically wiped down.) You may sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c4ba4aa23a7fa7-ourfathers18>.

We thank you for your patience in these trying times and your willingness to help.

The 2020 **Partners in Charity Appeal** will be ongoing through June and continues to need your support. Our parish goal is \$76,000. If it is possible for you, please complete your pledge envelope, indicating your gift or pledge. It is important for all of us who can to participate in order to support our mission as a diocese. Please be as generous as possible. If you have already made a gift to the 2020 appeal we thank you. Your gift will help us in reaching our parish goal. You can also make your gift online at www.partners-charity.net. Thank you!



United Parishes of Southborough, Inc.

Food Pantry

c/o Pilgrim Church

P.O. Box 281

15 Common Street

Southborough, MA 01772

Dear Food Pantry Clients,

Out of an abundance of caution, as the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) continues to evolve day by day, the Southborough Food Pantry is taking the following necessary precautions to help ensure the health and safety of all our clients and volunteers. The Pantry will remain open.

We ask all our clients to abide by the following guidelines:

- No children will be allowed at the Pantry
- If you are ill, please **do not** come to the Pantry. Instead, please call the Pantry's phone number at 508-485-4847 (wait for the Pantry prompt). Leave your name and phone number. We will call you back to determine what food you need. We will then arrange a time to deliver the food to you and leave the food at your door.
- When you enter the Pantry, use the hand sanitizer that is provided.
- Take a seat. The chairs will be spaced out for your protection.
- Only 1 person will be allowed at the window at a time.
- Only 1 person will be allowed at the tables at a time.
- If you need extra bags or forgot your bags, we will have extra paper bags for you.

The Pantry volunteers will have sanitized all chairs, tables and carts. We will re-sanitize the window area after each client. You will also note that we will be wearing disposable gloves.

Once again, we would stress—**do not** come to the Pantry if you are ill.

We thank all of you for your cooperation. We pray that the impact of this virus will quickly come to an end.

Sincerely,

The Food Pantry Coordinators

Readings for the Fourth Sunday of Lent

READING I 1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-3a

A reading from the first Book of Samuel

The LORD said to Samuel:
“Fill your horn with oil, and be on your way.
I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem,
for I have chosen my king from among his sons.”

As Jesse and his sons came to the sacrifice,
Samuel looked at Eliab and thought,
“Surely the LORD’s anointed is here before him.”
But the LORD said to Samuel:
“Do not judge from his appearance or from his lofty
stature,
because I have rejected him.
Not as man sees does God see,
because man sees the appearance
but the LORD looks into the heart.”
In the same way Jesse presented seven sons before
Samuel,
but Samuel said to Jesse,
“The LORD has not chosen any one of these.”
Then Samuel asked Jesse,
“Are these all the sons you have?”
Jesse replied,
“There is still the youngest, who is tending the sheep.”
Samuel said to Jesse,
“Send for him;
we will not begin the sacrificial banquet until he arrives
here.”
Jesse sent and had the young man brought to them.
He was ruddy, a youth handsome to behold
and making a splendid appearance.
The LORD said,
“There—anoint him, for this is the one!”
Then Samuel, with the horn of oil in hand,
anointed David in the presence of his brothers;
and from that day on, the spirit of the LORD rushed upon
David.

The Word of the Lord.



RESPONSORIAL PSALM Psalm 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 (1)

R. (1) The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
beside restful waters he leads me;
he refreshes my soul.

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

He guides me in right paths
for his name’s sake.
Even though I walk in the dark valley
I fear no evil; for you are at my side
With your rod and your staff
that give me courage.

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

You spread the table before me
in the sight of my foes;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Only goodness and kindness follow me
all the days of my life;
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
for years to come.

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

READING II Ephesians 5:8-14

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians

Brothers and sisters:
You were once darkness,
but now you are light in the Lord.
Live as children of light,
for light produces every kind of goodness
and righteousness and truth.
Try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.
Take no part in the fruitless works of darkness;
rather expose them, for it is shameful even to mention
the things done by them in secret;
but everything exposed by the light becomes visible,
for everything that becomes visible is light.
Therefore, it says:

“Awake, O sleeper,
and arise from the dead,
and Christ will give you light.”

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel for the Fourth Sunday of Lent

GOSPEL John 9:1-41

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

As Jesus passed by he saw a man blind from birth.
His disciples asked him,
“Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents,
that he was born blind?”
Jesus answered,
“Neither he nor his parents sinned;
it is so that the works of God might be made visible through him.
We have to do the works of the one who sent me while it is day.
Night is coming when no one can work.
While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”
When he had said this, he spat on the ground
and made clay with the saliva,
and smeared the clay on his eyes,
and said to him,
“Go wash in the Pool of Siloam” —which means Sent—.
So he went and washed, and came back able to see.

His neighbors and those who had seen him earlier as a beggar said,
“Isn’t this the one who used to sit and beg?”
Some said, “It is,”
but others said, “No, he just looks like him.”
He said, “I am.”
So they said to him, “How were your eyes opened?”
He replied,
“The man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes
and told me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’
So I went there and washed and was able to see.”
And they said to him, “Where is he?”

He said, “I don’t know.”

They brought the one who was once blind to the Pharisees.
Now Jesus had made clay and opened his eyes on a sabbath.
So then the Pharisees also asked him how he was able to see.
He said to them,
“He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and now I can see.”
So some of the Pharisees said,
“This man is not from God,
because he does not keep the sabbath.”
But others said,
“How can a sinful man do such signs?”
And there was a division among them.
So they said to the blind man again,
“What do you have to say about him,
since he opened your eyes?”
He said, “He is a prophet.”

Now the Jews did not believe
that he had been blind and gained his sight
until they summoned the parents of the one who had gained his sight.
They asked them,
“Is this your son, who you say was born blind?
How does he now see?”
His parents answered and said,
“We know that this is our son and that he was born blind.
We do not know how he sees now,
nor do we know who opened his eyes.

Ask him, he is of age;
he can speak for himself.”
His parents said this because they were afraid
of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed
that if anyone acknowledged him as the Christ,
he would be expelled from the synagogue.
For this reason his parents said,
“He is of age; question him.”

So a second time they called the man who had been blind
and said to him, “Give God the praise!
We know that this man is a sinner.”
He replied,
“If he is a sinner, I do not know.
One thing I do know is that I was blind and now I see.”
So they said to him,
“What did he do to you?
How did he open your eyes?”
He answered them,
“I told you already and you did not listen.
Why do you want to hear it again?

Do you want to become his disciples, too?”
They ridiculed him and said,
“You are that man’s disciple;
we are disciples of Moses!
We know that God spoke to Moses,
but we do not know where this one is from.”
The man answered and said to them,
“This is what is so amazing,
that you do not know where he is from, yet he opened my eyes.
We know that God does not listen to sinners,
but if one is devout and does his will, he listens to him.
It is unheard of that anyone ever opened the eyes of a person born blind.
If this man were not from God,
he would not be able to do anything.”
They answered and said to him,
“You were born totally in sin,
and are you trying to teach us?”
Then they threw him out.

When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out,
he found him and said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”
He answered and said,
“Who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?”
Jesus said to him,
“You have seen him,
the one speaking with you is he.”
He said,
“I do believe, Lord,” and he worshiped him.
Then Jesus said,
“I came into this world for judgment,
so that those who do not see might see,
and those who do see might become blind.”

Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this
and said to him, “Surely we are not also blind, are we?”
Jesus said to them,
“If you were blind, you would have no sin;
but now you are saying, ‘We see,’ so your sin remains.

The Gospel of the Lord.